

**Exhibit 14:**

Western Values Project's April 2, 2018 BLM FOIA  
Request (BLM-2018-00683)



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406-438-1918

Bureau of Land Management  
Headquarters Office  
E-Mail: [blm\\_wo\\_foia@blm.gov](mailto:blm_wo_foia@blm.gov)

April 2, 2018

## **FOIA REQUEST**

Dear Records Request Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I request access to and copies of all contracts the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) awarded to Environmental and Planning Management Solutions, Inc. (EPMSI) to review and process public comments received by BLM following the publication of the "Notice of Intent to Amend the Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Revisions and Amendment(s)." <sup>1</sup>

### **Fee Waiver Request**

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).<sup>2</sup>

Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding" of government operations and is not "primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."<sup>3</sup> The disclosure of the information sought under this request will document and reveal the operations of the federal government, including how public funds are spent and how officials conduct the public's business.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=90121>

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., *McClellan Ecological Seepage Situation v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1285 (9th Cir. 1987).

<sup>3</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii)

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a project of a 501(c)(3) organization, Western Values Project does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in Western Values Project's financial interest. Western Values Project's mission is to give a voice to Western values in the national conversation about resource development and public lands conservation, a space too often dominated by industry lobbyists and their government allies. Western Values Project will use the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. Western Values Project will also make materials it gathers available on our public website <http://www.westernvaluesproject.org/>.

Accordingly, Western Values Project qualifies for a fee waiver.

### **Conclusion**

If possible, I would prefer to receive this information electronically via e-mail at [csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org](mailto:csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org).

If you have questions or need additional information from me, please feel free to call me at (406) 438-1918.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. If any documents are withheld based on the Agency's interpretation of any exemption, we request that you provide an index of those documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973), *cert. denied*, 415 U.S. 977 (1974). Specifically, this *Vaughn* index should describe withheld documents with enough specificity as to determine whether the material is exempt under the act and must describe each document or portion withheld.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Chris Saeger  
Executive Director  
Western Values Project